

On January 11, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Public Law 107-118; H.R. 2869). It expands EPA's Brownfields Program, boosts funding for assessment and cleanup, enhances roles for State and Tribal response programs, and clarifies Superfund liability.

A brownfield property is "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."



Solar Park, Cape Charles, VA

Brownfields revitalization provides communities with the tools to reduce environmental and health risks, reuse abandoned properties, take advantage of existing infrastructure, create a robust tax base, attract new businesses and jobs, create new recreational areas, and reduce the pressure to develop open spaces.

EPA's Brownfields Program is built on four pillars:

- Protecting the environment;
- Promoting partnerships;
- Strengthening the marketplace; and
- Sustaining reuse.

The new law provides the needed funds and tools to help communities reach these goals.

For more information on the Brownfields Program, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/brownfields/ or contact:

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The New Brownfields Law



B E N E F I T S O F T H E L A W

The law modifies EPA's existing brownfields grants and technical assistance program in several ways:

- Increases funding authority up to \$200 million per year.
- Provides grants for assessments, revolving loan funds, and direct cleanups.
- Expands the entities, properties, and activities eligible for the brownfields grants.
- Expands brownfields program applicability to sites with petroleum contamination such as abandoned gas stations.
- Provides authority for brownfields training, research, and technical assistance.

EPA will publish brownfields grant application guidelines for the new funds annually, starting in October 2002.



McKenzie's Bakery, Kalamazoo, MI

The law changes and clarifies Superfund liability in several ways:

- Clarifies Superfund liability for prospective purchasers, innocent landowners, and contiguous property owners.
- Provides liability protection for certain small volume contributors and contributors of municipal solid waste.

While many of the provisions are self-implementing, EPA plans to develop policy guidance where needed.



Former Jenkins Valve, Bridgeport, CT

"The Brownfields Revitalization Act is a sensible piece of legislation, one that emphasizes the need for environmental stewardship all across the country."

—President George W. Bush

The law creates a strong, balanced relationship between the Federal government and State and Tribal programs in several ways:

- Authorizes up to \$50 million per year for building and enhancing State and Tribal response programs and expands activities eligible for funding.
- Provides protection from Superfund liability at sites cleaned up under a State program.
- Preserves the Federal safety net by detailing the circumstances where EPA can revisit a cleanup.
- Clarifies State role in adding sites to the Superfund National Priorities List.

EPA works with States and Tribes as partners and co-implementors of the law and plans to develop policy guidance as needed.

Baseball Stadium, Bridgeport, CT

